## The Ethiopian Famine

Kurt Jansson Michael Harris Angela Penrose



## Contents

List of Abbreviations		
Glossary		
Maps	xi	
INTRODUCTION Michael Harris	xix	
SECTION 1: THE EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATION		
-AN INSIDE VIEW Kurt Jansson	xxv	
Acknowledgements	xxvii	
1. Prologue	1	
2. Inside Ethiopia	. 8	
Improvisation and innovation	11	
Diplomats as "relief workers"	18	
3. Western Private Organisations in a Marxist Country	22	
The political leadership and key officials in the emergency	27	
4. The Logistics Nightmare	33	
Road transport	33	
Air transport	39	
5. Reaching the People	45	
6. Aid Distribution: Control and Verification	54	
7. Resettlement	64	
8. Fact and Fiction: Media Reporting of the Crisis	68	
Epilogue	74	
SECTION 2: BEFORE AND AFTER Angela Penrose	79	
Acknowledgements	. 80	
Introduction	80	
Part I: Historical Background	. 83	
1. Historical Introduction	85	
2. The Eve of Famine and Revolution: Economic Conditions	88	
3. Famine: 1972–74	92	
An illustrative case	93	
Aggravating factors	. 96	
The international response: before September 1973	99	
International response: after September 1973	100	
Coordination within Ethiopia	100	

viii

	THE TABLE A TO SECOND S	100
4.	The Fall of the Emperor and Emergence of the Provisional Council	103
	Opposition to the monarchy	103
_	The creeping coup	106
5.	The PMAC: Institutionalisation and Development	108
	Internal policies	108
	External relations	110
	Ethiopia's new constitution	111
6.	Economic Policies and Developments under PMAC: 1974-84	113
	The economic situation: overview	114
	Balance of payments and terms of trade	115
	Land reform	115
	Agriculture and forestry	118
	Manpower	123
	Health	124
	Health care	125
7.	Regional Political Issues	126
	Eritrea	126
	Tigray	128
Раг	1 2: Famine: 1982-1986	131
	Brief Chronology: 1979-March 1984	133
	Monitoring Systems and Contingency Mechanisms	137
٠.	The Early Warning System (EWS)	137
	Emergency food stocks	138
10	The Poor Response: March-October 1984	139
IV.	March 1984: the RRC's 'Assistance Requirements'	139
	Why was the response so poor?	140
	Perceptions	141
		141
	Too many countries WFP/FAO estimates of needs	142
		143
11.	Failure of Other Potential Donors	
	The USA	147
	The EEC	150
	The non-governmental agencies	151
	Reaction to Ethiopian government actions	152
12.	Action at Last: An Accelerated Response	153
	The improved response from September 1984	153
	'Where monitoring failed the media succeeded'	153
	Ethiopian resettlement policies	156
	Developments in 1985	157
	Developments in 1986	158
	Developments in 1987	159
Pa	rt 3: Efforts at Consolidation of the 'Positive'	
(	Consequences of the Crisis	161
13.	Wider Responses	163
	The African response	163

	•	
	The World Bank	164
	The UN Special Session on the critical economic situation in Africa:	
	27-31 May 1986	165
	The donor-recipient relationship	166
14.	Possibilities for Action in Ethiopia	167
	Food production .	168
	Soil and water conservation	169
	Forestry	169
	Health	169
	Diversification of rural economic activity	170
	Resettlement policies and villagisation	171
	Research	177
	Training	177
	The position of women	177
	Local participation	178
	Famine prevention measures	178
	Future response	180
	The next famine	181
15	. Underlying Long-run Considerations: Climate and Population	
	Growth	181
	Climate	181
	Population growth	184
	Appendix	190
	· ·	101
	Select Bibliography	191
	Index	193

## Maps

Map of Ethiopia and Population	xii
Major NGOs and Their Main Places of Activities, 1984-1985	xiii
Security Situation 1985	xiv
Major Distribution Points with Regular Supply	xv
Relative Importance of Road and Air Transport, 1985	xvi
Number of People in and around Shelters and Displaced Population	xvii
Resettlement 1985–1986	xviii

Photograph appears on page xxiv